



**Central District
2010 Extension Faculty Symposium**

PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

**29 April, 2010
Volusia County Extension, Deland, FL**

**Program and Abstracts
University of Florida, IFAS Extension
Central District Extension Faculty Symposium, 29 April 2010**

2010 Central District Extension Faculty Symposium April 29, 2010

Agenda

9:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	Registration and Poster set up
10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	Welcome, David Griffis, Andy Kelly, Volusia County Council Member, Dr. Tim Momol, Judy Butterfield
10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.	Extension Update – Dr. Tom Obreza
10:45 A.M. – 11:00 AM.	Break
11:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.	Turning Point – Norma Samuel
12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.	Lunch, Poster Session, Program Area Discussions
1:45 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.	Social Marketing – Dr. Carolyn Nicholson, Stetson University
2:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.	Break
2:45 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	Camtasia – Dr. Stacy Strickland
3:00 P.M. – 3:15 P.M.	Central District You Tube – Linda Seals, Karen Henry, Dr. Maia McGuire, Dr. Juanita Popenoe, Scott Taylor
3:15 P.M. – 3:25 P.M.	Faculty Assembly Update – Dr. Richard Tyson
3:25 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	Wrap Up – Dr. Tim Momol

***Special thanks to the entire Volusia County Extension faculty and staff,
the District Extension office and to today's presenters.***

AG EDVENTURES: A TASTE OF AGRICULTURE FOR YOUTH. G. Sachs, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

As development in St. Johns County expands and the population increases, the number of acres dedicated to agriculture continues to diminish. According to the 2007 Agriculture Census, there has been an 11% decrease in farm land since 2002. With the county becoming more urban, more and more youth are growing up with a lack of understanding of where their food comes from and the process it goes through to get to their table. The mission of Ag EdVentures is to provide 4th grade youth with an experiential learning event that increases knowledge and appreciation of the impact of agriculture in daily life. This event provides a “taste” of Florida’s agriculture to 4th grade youth as each class visits a variety of agriculturally-related stations, all of which provide, “hands on,” engaging presentations. Due to the popularity of this program, in just four years, it has grown from a one day event for 200 youth to a three day event involving nearly 1,200 youth. Funding for this event has been primarily provided by Farm Bureau and Florida Ag in the Classroom grants, as well as donations from local farmers. Over the past four years, pre and post tests have shown that 4th grade participants from St. Johns County have increased their knowledge about honey bees, beef cattle, aquaculture, dairy products and citrus fruits. Station presenters include extension agents, farmers, 4-H adult and youth volunteers, UF state specialists and representatives from various community organizations. As part of the post-event evaluation, youth essays have expressed a genuine “amazement” about various agricultural topics. This has made the event a memorable experience for them. It is hoped that youth and teachers who attend Ag EdVentures will strive to become good stewards of the earth and recognize the importance of their much needed support to keep agriculture in their local community.

4-H AND FCS PROJECT WITH EARTH UNIVERSITY IN COSTA RICA.

H. Copeland, D. Douglas, S. Hensley, S. Munyan, N. Walker, K. Zamojski, and P. Vergot.
7620 SR 471, Ste. 2; Bushnell, FL 33513

The 4-H/FCS Project in Costa Rica is a partnership between the University of Florida and Earth University in Costa Rica. In 2010 a team of three 4-H Youth Development and three Family Consumer Science Agents were chosen to visit Costa Rica in partnership with Earth University. Objectives included a gain in professional development and to conduct a needs assessment for future trainings of professionals residing in Costa Rica in the areas of Youth Development and Family and Community Science topics.

The methodology regarding the initial project included pre-trip training sessions through polycom with International Extension/USDA representatives, Earth University Faculty and Students, and planning sessions for teaching/sharing opportunities. Furthermore, our cultural experience and professional development opportunities involved discussions with IICA, Minister of Agriculture offices in two districts, School directors and teachers, 4S director, Florida Foundation representatives (a business enterprise that supports youth programming in schools), Earth University students, faculty, research directors, etc. and families where we stayed overnight.

As a result of the professional development experience the agents attending were able to gain knowledge in Latin culture, gain skills in communicating in Espanol, be culturally sensitive to family situations, and many other awarenesses. Furthermore, each day on the trip we each learned something new and interesting. As a result of the 2010 trip in Costa Rica the team identified many concerns in which further training sessions could be provided pending the funding of our project. After much deliberation two main objectives were identified. One is the living conditions of the majority of the population can be improved through basic food safety practices. Two is that many educators or volunteers do not have the basic skills of working with youth audiences. Both of these subjects will be addressed in our 2011 project. Plans include working with teachers, community leaders, 4S clubs, and 3rd year students at Earth University. Methodology for conducting training will be a “train the trainer” session over a time of several weeks where team members will be traveling for two week intervals to provide instruction through hands on experiences and cooking demonstrations, both youth and adult audiences (ages 15 and older) will be targeted.

4-H PARTNERING WITH LOCAL YOUTH SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

J. Hodges, University of Florida IFAS Lake County Extension, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32788

The primary goal of 4H is to shape and mold today's youth into becoming responsible and caring leaders and citizens. 4H is able to achieve this end through offering various clubs, after school programs, unique city, district and state events and various other youth development activities. 4H, however, is not the only youth serving organization whose mission is to serve and shape America's youth. There are organizations like Boys and Girls Clubs of America, YMCA and countless other youth organizations located throughout each community which influence youth in a positive manner. Each organization is able to serve a specific community need as well as a specific demographic. Keeping these realities in mind, it is imperative that youth organizations form partnerships with one another in order to utilize resources for funding various activities and programs as well as to develop dialogue between youth development professionals. This type of coalition will allow organizations, like 4H, the opportunity to reach and influence a greater number of youth while working to further the professional field of youth development.

LUNCHROOM MEALTIME MANNERS. Bryant, Kathleen M., Extension Agent, Volusia County; Ellison, Shirley R., 4-H Program Assistant, Volusia County, 3100 E. New York Avenue, De Land, FL 32724

Good table manners are just as important as good hygiene. The behavior of children/youth at mealtime rates as a common source of stress for parents and adults. Mealtime behavior during school lunchtimes indicates a need to teach acceptable manners to youth. Using the 4-H Common Courtesy Academy curriculum to teach mealtime manners, elementary school students learned skills in a practical setting. **Objective:** To teach youth acceptable behavior in the lunch room. Skills taught included, orderly lunch line behavior, making food requests, and selecting proper utensils. The youth also learned how to use a napkin and tableware properly, pleasant table conversation, and sitting posture. **Method:** Four Volusia County elementary schools were chosen to receive this specialize training. Instruction was conducted during the regularly scheduled lunch times. The students were learning as they were doing. The concepts of common courtesy towards others, basic etiquette, and mannerly behavior at the table were taught. Youth received twenty (20) hours of training and a certificate of completion was awarded. **Results:** Administrators reported remarkably improved behavior in the lunchroom setting, lunchroom personnel are noticing more courteous requests for food selections, and youth are experiencing less rushed mealtimes. They are finding ample time to finish their meal before engaging in conversations and returning to the classroom. As a result of teachers and administrators share ideas across the county, requests for this program are growing. **Conclusions:** Whether eating at home, in a restaurant, or school cafeteria, everyone should know and practice good table manners. School lunch room settings have proved to be a good place to teach the practical skills of mealtime manners. Youth are practicing improved mealtime manners and courtesy towards others.

THE GREATEST IMPACT: LESSONS FROM WORKING WITH AT RISK YOUTH IN COMMUNITY 4-H CLUBS. M. Brew and X. Diaz 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd., Ocala Fl 34470

According to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development young people have the capacity to thrive when presented with resources for healthy development regardless of their background, socioeconomic status, or race. Involvement in 4-H clubs provides young people with opportunities for the accrual of positive life skills and decreases incidences of high risk behaviors. Unfortunately reaching at-risk youth poses many challenges including a shortage of parental support and a general lack of monetary resources as well as challenges associated with integrating into existing, and often tight knit, communities. A pilot program was developed through a partnership between Marion County 4-H and Neighborhood Networks Center to bring the 4-H program to youth in Spring Manor, a government subsidized housing complex in Ocala, Fl. Several steps were followed to insure the success of the program. First, a respected adult from within the community was identified and trained to serve as club leader. A needs assessment was then performed to determine which curriculum and projects best met the needs and piqued the interest of targeted youth. Finally incentives were offered to parents to enroll youth and complete the necessary paperwork. The experience of bringing 4-H programming to Spring Manor demonstrated the need for adopting a different approach to 4-H work in at risk communities. The key components of this approach include; working to implement change from within the community by identifying and working with internal stakeholders, understanding and respecting cultural differences, and providing additional support for youth in the absence of parental involvement. Based on experience and research, guidelines have been developed to aide 4-H agents and volunteers in reaching traditionally underserved youth through the creation of community clubs in government subsidized housing developments.

TAKING YOUR SHOW ON THE ROAD, MARKETING TIPS AND TRICKS.

R. Harris. UF/IFAS Orange County Extension, 6021 S. Conway Rd. Orlando, FL 32812.

Extension educators will undoubtedly find themselves presenting information in the full range of venues. From a formal classroom or auditorium setting to a simple table at an outdoor community festival, where you present is as important as what you choose to present and how it is presented. The presentation of materials (the how) is often an afterthought, but should become a strategic part of your planning when interfacing with the public. A number of creative solutions will be described with specific examples of: Marketing Box Kits, Innovative and Easy High-Tech Additions, Creative Displays, Location Challenges, and Value-Added Learning Opportunities.

CONSUMER CHOICES: A SKILL FOR LIFE. J. Borgman, E. Foerste, G. Negron; K. Henry, S. Hetrick, J. Pelham, L. Royer, and M.B. Salisbury, University of Florida IFAS Osceola County Extension, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744

Situation: Decisions are made by youth every day, including how to manage and spend their money. Research shows that every year youth spend an average of \$159 billion dollars. With their spending power and limited understanding of managing money, they are at risk of making costly mistakes. **Objectives:** The overall goal of this program is to improve the financial management skills of youth by increasing knowledge of consumer products and price comparison. Objective 1 - 50% of youth participating in the Consumer Choices Judging program will develop or enhance at least three consumer skills as measured by contest results. Objective 2 - 30% of youth participating in the Consumer Choices Judging Program will improve their oral reasons skills as measured by observation data collected by trained evaluators. **Method:** Through collaboration, all Extension program areas (FCS, 4H, Horticulture and Natural Resources) utilized lecture, hands-on activities, situational analysis and field trips for optimal learning. To enhance participation in 2010, faculty conducted two, train-the-trainer workshops and added a Consumer Choices 4-H project book to appeal to youth. Each year, over 100 volunteers are utilized to conduct multi-level contests which evaluate skills developed. **Results:** Over 256 classes have been taught reaching 5,454 youth ages 8 to 18. More than 90% of youth (n=4,930) developed or enhanced at least 3 consumer skills as measured by contest results. All of the youth (n=5,454) improved on their oral reasoning skills as measured by observational data. Due to new methods in 2010, participation in training classes and contest doubled. **Conclusion:** Success is evident as youth view this program as valuable to building their life skills. Youth have returned multiple years and recruited others to participate in the program. The information learned and skills developed are shared with family members, having a direct effect on family finances.

NEED SERVICE TO SCHOOLS? BECOME A SCIENCEFAIR JUDGE! M.P. McGuire and J. Popenoe. 150 Sawgrass Road, Bunnell, FL 32110 and 1951 Woodlea Road, Tavares, FL 32778

Many county faculty members struggle to find items to include in the “Service to Schools” portion of the annual report or promotion packet. Many activities that we conduct in or for schools are part of our “normal” extension program, and are not really appropriate to include in this part of the report. Science fair judging is a great way to meet the service to schools requirement, and you might find that you actually enjoy it! By talking to student researchers, you may provide them with the benefit of your knowledge and experience, introduce them to related research at UF, help them improve their project, or help them take it in a new direction. In return, you will gain the satisfaction of having served as a mentor, and possibly having recruited the next generation of Extension faculty! Projects encompass a range of topics, encompassing all Extension program areas. Some examples include projects dealing with invasive species, biological controls, water quality, water and energy conservation, and human health and wellness. Generally, judges are asked to rank the top projects, and projects are typically divided by categories, with individual judges assigned to a single category. Strong projects have controlled variables, good replication, controls (if appropriate) and try to answer a question which is at least somewhat new/unknown. How should you get started? Contact a local middle or high school and offer to help. Some elementary schools do science fairs, too, but may not include student interviews. Most school science fairs are held in November-January; most regional fairs are held in January-February and the state science fair is held in April. Some schools (those on block schedules) may have a second science fair at the school in the spring. Judging a science fair is only about a half-day commitment (a full day at the state science fair), and the benefits to you, the students and the schools are enduring.

4-H MUNCHY ADVENTURES YOUTH PROJECT BOOK. Nancy J. Gal, Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent IV; Natasha Masciarelli, Public Relations Specialist, and Norma Samuel, Urban Horticulture Agent II. University of Florida/IFAS Marion County Extension Service, 2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, Florida 34470-3615

Situation: Youth are at increased risk of overweight and obesity due to poor diet and inactivity, which can lead to heart disease and type 2 diabetes. This project supports a statewide curriculum need in childhood nutrition and fitness. **Objectives:** Youth will acquire knowledge and skills to improve nutrition and physical activity behaviors. At least 50% of participants will increase knowledge of two or more nutrition/physical activity practices as recommended by the USDA MyPyramid and will demonstrate their skills by planning healthful meals/snacks. **Target Audience:** Youth ages eight to ten. Also appropriate for younger children with close guidance and older children with limited nutrition knowledge. **Methodology:** This forty-page multi-disciplined curriculum follows the experiential learning model and contains five eye-appealing chapters. A logical flow of information is supported by thought provoking and reflective written activities including refrigerator find, menu planning, label reading, and time to get moving. Illustrations of Chef Nicky, the fruit and vegetable loving guinea pig, are interspersed to reinforce the messages. Activities are designed for both individuals and groups and are adaptable for all cultures. Includes three evaluations: pre/post crossword puzzles, *The Ultimate Challenge* game and *Did You Take Charge* reflection activity. The puzzle and game measure knowledge gain and the reflection activity measures practice change. **Impact/Outcomes:** Seventy-seven local 4-H youth completed the project book. All increased their knowledge of at least two nutrition/fitness concepts, demonstrated meal planning, and indicated adoption of healthier food choices. Concepts learned: five food groups and oil; meal planning; healthful food choices; and hand washing. Behaviors adopted: increased intake of fruits, vegetables, and low-fat milk; and decreased intake of soda. **Conclusion:** In addition to reducing obesity and chronic diseases, estimates of long-term economic outcomes suggest a ten percent weight loss equates to a \$2,200 to \$5,300 reduction in lifetime medical costs (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2003).

MONEY MANAGEMENT DAY CAMP. T. Pehlke, UF/Orange County Extension, 6021 S. Conway Rd., Orlando, FL 32812

A multi-year study by the Jump Start Coalition highlights the need for greater financial literacy among our nation's youth. Over the past decade plus researchers have witnessed a steady decline in high school senior's scores on a nationwide test of financial literacy. For the most recent year (2008) students averaged scores in the 48th percentile, a decline of nearly 10% since preliminary data collection (1997). Such findings are particularly troublesome given the recent economic crisis. The Orange County 4-H program responded to this need by developing a one-week (15 hour) money management day camp targeting high school aged youth. This camp sought to increase participant's knowledge of basic financial concepts through direct instruction, guest speakers, and hands-on learning experiences. The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) curriculum was utilized in this course. Each session focused on one topic within financial literacy. Topics included: budgeting, banking, credit/debt, insurance, and saving/investing. A pre and post-test interactive evaluation (i.e., skill-a-thon) was conducted to assess participant learning. In this examination youth were asked to define key concepts, complete banking forms (e.g., deposit slip) and solve simple interest problems. 100% of youth money management day camp attendees (n=12) demonstrated an increase in financial literacy. Results indicate that student financial literacy knowledge increased by 29% over the course of the program. Money management day camps can play a valuable role in preparing youth to take on adult roles. Programming can be adapted for younger age groups, though some of the mathematical concepts discussed in the NEFE curriculum were found to be too complex for younger ages. It is recommended that Agents utilize the knowledge of local financial professionals in such programming. Possible guest speakers include bankers, insurance agents, and/or financial advisors.

GET ACTIVE! BREVARD. E. Shpehard, K. Vansickle, M. Tillis, M. Shoff, L. Nelson.
3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, FL 32926

To provide and support community-wide healthcare education in Brevard County, the University of Florida Brevard County Extension Service, Brevard Health-Care Forum and community partners held two fun family events called “Get Active! Brevard.” The festival-style event aims to address the problem of childhood obesity in Brevard County through:

- 1) Raising awareness about the topic and related issues including proper nutrition and the importance of physical activity
- 2) Connecting parents and children with related community resources
- 3) Prompting productive dialogue between parents and children
- 4) Empowering parents and children to take the first steps toward a healthier lifestyle through hands-on awareness and education activities

Estimated Attendance

We have had this event two times. Each time we had over 1000 participants of both children and parents. The activities are targeted at children 5-12 years of age and their parents. No reference in promotional materials will call out childhood obesity; however, the activities, presentations, materials and vendors will be focused on exercise, nutrition and choices that lead to improved health. The first year BMI information was gathered to get a base line of information about obesity in the community. The target was to reach children with high BMI, however we found that people that attend these events, already focus on healthy lifestyles, and 75% of the students that participated were in good BMI standing. With follow up surveys, results showed that of 50 surveys received that 22% increased family activity at least one time a week. In the second event surveys focused on healthy lifestyles, such as amount of screen time, how many fruits and vegetables are eaten on an average day, and how often they exercise. There were approximately 100 surveys collected, while data is still being processed, a follow up survey will be sent soon.

List of Event Activities

Get Active! Brevard activities focused on kids and their parents. They included:

- Lectures on health and wellness topics, e.g., how to read and understand food labels, tips for starting and maintaining an exercise program, how to select healthy foods at school
- Cooking demonstrations, e.g., kids can cook too, preparing healthy snacks and lunches
- Sports celebrity appearances – opportunity for autographs, clinics
- Vendor Booths, free information, samples, interactive displays
- Physical activities: climbing wall, bouncy house, relay races, obstacle courses, tug-o-war, jump rope, hula hoops, soccer

A variety of community organizations and Brevard businesses are being invited to participate as financial sponsors and/or vendors. All participating vendors must have information, services and programming that complement the goal of positively addressing childhood obesity.

PAY DAY LENDERS: AVOID TAKING THE BAIT. L. Spence. 2232 NE Jacksonville Road, Ocala, FL 34470.

Situation: In this period of economic uncertainty, when hours have been cut back and jobs lost, individuals seek alternative solutions to mitigate their financial crises. A payday lender seemingly offers a quick and easy solution. Capitalizing on unfortunate circumstances, predatory lenders grant their customers short term loans that increase the borrower's initial encumbrance. Research finds that payday lending is designed to keep borrowers in debt, not to provide one-time assistance. **Objectives:** 1) Seventy-five per cent of attendees will show increased awareness and knowledge about the topic; 2) Sixty-five per cent will share at least one thing they have learned in this class with others. All objectives were measured by a post-test evaluation. **Methods:** The method of delivery was a 60-90 minute interactive program using a Power Point, worksheet, and role play. **Findings:** To date, 43 individuals have attended this program. Eighty-two per cent (N= 38) showed increased awareness and knowledge about the subject. Eighty-two per cent (N=38) indicated they would share some part of what they learned with someone who did not attend the program. **Conclusion:** Extension is perfectly positioned to counter increased marketing efforts of payday lenders. As a result of this program, individuals have a heightened awareness of predatory lending practices and are more inclined to consider other strategies to resolve their financial crises. This program resulted in a heightened awareness of the useful and educational nature that Marion County Extension Service offers.

TARGETING HIGH WATER USE CUSTOMERS TO CONSERVE WATER RESOURCES IN CITRUS COUNTY. J. Bradshaw. UF IFAS Citrus County Extension, 3650 W Sovereign Path, Ste 1, Lecanto, FL 34461-8070

1) Situation: Florida's estimated statewide gross public-supply per capita usage is 174 gal/day and the residential per capita usage is 106 gal/day (Marella, 2004). In comparison, water billing data in Citrus County indicate a residential per capita water usage of 221 gal/day. This being the case, a need existed for identifying high water use communities and educating them on methods of conserving water inside and outside the home. Based on current water billing data, Extension programs were designed for the Citrus County community of Sugarmill Woods. The program objectives were: (a) to increase awareness of a variety of methods of water conservation by 20% and (b) implement methods which reduce domestic water use by 10% . 2) Educational Methods: Educational workshops and instructional materials were developed and implemented within Sugarmill Woods. Workshops and displays were available at six community centers events attracting more than 150 residents per event (900 total participants). 3) Results/Findings: In addition to pre and post workshop evaluations, water billing data were compared for 2008 and 2009. As a community, Sugarmill Woods' water usage dropped from 2.8 million gal/d in Jan 2008 to 2.3 million gal/d in September, 2009. In addition to the environmental benefits of approximately .5 million gallons per day water savings for the Sugarmill Woods community (182.5 million gal/yr), there was an economic benefit to residents. Water billing data comparisons for March 2008 and March 2009 indicate a collective decline of 12% in billing rates. 4).Conclusions: Access to water resource billing records makes it possible to target audiences who need water conservation educational programs. In addition to traditional pre and post workshop evaluations, billing records enhance the measurability of Extension educational programs indicating economic benefits of implementing conservations methodologies as well as environmentally beneficial practice changes.

RAISING AWARENESS AMONG LAKE USERS ABOUT AQUATIC WEED ISSUES. S. Hetrick. University of Florida /IFAS Osceola County Extension, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744.

Aquatic weeds, including hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) and hygrophila (*Hygrophila polysperma*), cause serious environmental and economic impacts in Florida. Although we have been struggling with invasive plant problems for more than a century in Florida, most people are unaware of the severity of the situation and have misconceptions about managing aquatic weeds. Osceola County's Hydrilla and Hygrophila Demonstration Project seeks to find new methods to manage hydrilla and other nuisance weeds. One of the components of the project is a concerted public information campaign to bring lake users (i.e., boaters, duck hunters, and anglers) "up to speed" with the problems our state is facing regarding aquatic weeds. Numerous public outreach strategies have been implemented by UF/IFAS Osceola County Extension to raise awareness among lake users, including 1) kiosks at major boat ramps, 2) waterproof pocket guides, 3) educational exhibits at events (i.e., bass fishing tournaments), 4) promotional key chains and magnets, 5) articles in various lake user group's magazines and newsletters, and 6) presentations at various meetings (i.e., duck hunting conventions). Evaluation of these strategies is in progress. The objective is to create a more educated stakeholder group that will be supportive of the state's aquatic plant management program and will help to prevent the spread of aquatic weeds to new areas. So far, 4 permanent kiosks have been erected at major boat ramps and educational posters have been posted in 12 additional kiosks. Over 1,000 pocket guides have been distributed to lake users and five exhibits have been displayed at events with 425 contacts made. Lastly, articles have been published in various magazines and newsletters and six presentations have been delivered to 236 total people. As a result of these efforts, we have received numerous requests for presentations and copies of publications, and numerous inquiries regarding aquatic weeds.

IMPLEMENTING WATER SAVING METHODS TO NEW CENTRAL FLORIDA RESIDENTS. J. Davis Sumter County Extension, Bushnell, Florida 3351

Situation: Florida is ranked second in the nation for water use. Florida also has one of the fastest growing retirement communities in the United States, The Villages. The Villages is an expanding retirement community of 65,000 people located in Sumter County. In 2008, the U.S. Census bureau listed The Villages as the fastest growing micropolitan area in the United States. Due to this rapid rise in population and development, water conservation has taken a center stage in The Villages. Inefficient watering wastes the water and contributes to pollution. Excess water can carry harmful pollutants such as pesticides, oils and grass clippings into our rivers, lakes and other water bodies. **Methods:** The objective of this project was to reduce water use in the landscape for new residents moving to The Villages. Monthly workshops were held to educate new Village residents in water saving methods such as how to operate an irrigation controller, proper irrigation maintenance and Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. Visual media aids, hands-on demonstrations of irrigation controllers and irrigation components were incorporated in this project. Pre and post tests were distributed to attending residents to examine behavior change. **Results:** 80% (n=25) residents that responded attending the workshop now manage their irrigation controller correctly; 25 residents randomly surveyed demonstrated a 40% increase in knowledge gained on irrigation operation and maintenance. **Conclusion:** The new resident's workshop has generated a high interest in The Villages. Attendance has increased to an average of 100 residents per workshop every month. The Villages newspaper, radio and television networks now routinely advertise the workshop to its audience averaging 150,000 residents. Based on the results from this project, workshops will continue to be taught to new residents every month.

ACCOUNTING FOR THE CARBON COSTS OF ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES IN FLORIDA E. Foerste¹, J. Kipp, P. Jones, D. Bracciano ¹UF/IFAS
Osceola County Extension, 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744

Situation: Florida's local governments and water utilities are faced with many challenges in providing a sustainable water supply for a growing population. As freshwater availability for public supply declines, the demand for alternative sources grows. Costs associated with the development of alternative water supplies are extensive and varied, including permitting, capital, operation, maintenance, and now, mitigation for greenhouse gases (GHGs). This study considers the energy-water nexus of alternative water supplies and calculates the carbon footprint of three supply strategies used conjunctively in the Tampa Bay Water region: groundwater pumping, surface water treatment, and seawater desalination. **Methods:** Facility-level data collected from Tampa Bay Water and the USEPA were used to analyze the energy costs and estimate the carbon footprints and intensities of each alternative water supply strategy and the blended product from 2006-2009. **Results:** Producing potable water through desalination requires significantly more energy than producing it from surface or groundwater: average annual electricity cost estimates per million gallons (MG) produced were \$1,343 for desalinated water, compared with \$135 for surface water and \$70 for groundwater. Similarly, the annual average carbon intensity of desalinated seawater was estimated to be 25,741 lbs carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}) per MG produced, which is orders of magnitude higher than the estimated carbon intensities for treated surface water (2,248 lbs CO_{2e} per MG) and groundwater (1,378 lbs CO_{2e} per MG). **Conclusions:** Results support the compelling argument for cost-avoidance through conservation strategies including: 1) better land design practices to maintain native vegetation and drainage; 2) low impact development (LID) and resource-efficient design; 3) proper plant material selection; and 4) improved irrigation efficiency. Tampa Bay Water is a regional water supplier. This model could be useful for comparison with other utilities that utilize alternative water supplies and provide it to end users including businesses, industry and residential customers.

PROJECT LEARNING TREE. Spero-Swingle, V. UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension, 3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa, Florida 32926.

Environmental education (EE) is a growing field and as evidence suggests; an important tool in disseminating information to allow citizens to make up their own minds regarding environmentally driven topics. With the current disconnect between youth and the environment, as well as the rising obesity rates, getting youth active, outdoors, and caring for the environment is relevant and important. One of the most effective ways to introduce EE is through a curriculum called Project Learning Tree (PLT). PLT offers 96 activities that can easily be adapted for formal or non-formal settings as well as youth or adult audiences. PLT offers trainings on using the curriculum, the most recent of which is piloted as an online training to 4-H Agents and leaders. Within Brevard County, most of the PLT trainings have focused on teachers and formal educators. This year, the Brevard County UF/IFAS Office, in collaboration with the Brevard Zoo and Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, offered a training in April for Brevard County Parks and Recreation employees. The premise was to train non-formal educators who work in camp and recreation center settings on using the curriculum effectively to enhance their summer camp programs, after school programs, and special event programs. The training secured grant funding through PLT and UF/School of Forest Resources and Conservation to purchase the PLT materials, and through Publix Super Markets, Inc. to provide lunch to the attendees. By the end of the training in April 2010, 80% (n=16) of the attendees should feel comfortable with and plan to use PLT in their programming. By September 2010, 80% (n=16) of the attendees should have used PLT in their programs in an effort to teach environmental education concepts. Follow up will be maintained with the attendees to capture how well PLT fits their needs and if further trainings targeting this population will be effective. Attendees will also be tracked on their use of PLT and to whether or not they have noticed any changes, through surveys, to youth who they work with on a more regular basis (i.e. after school community club settings). By training the trainers to utilize this resource, they in turn can provide EE to their audiences. EE and outdoor education has been shown to increase learning, instill behavioral changes, and promote environmental awareness.

WATER CONSERVATION THROUGH HOMEOWNER IRRIGATION EDUCATION. J. Sullivan. 1921 Kissimmee Valley Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34744

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program at the University of Florida/IFAS Extension offers education on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, including the topic of irrigating efficiently. People with automatic irrigation systems tend to overwater, contributing to the fact that Florida has the highest household water use per person in the U.S. The result is unhealthy landscapes, wasted water, and wasted money. Water management districts and local water providers continue to strengthen water conservation measures, including enforcing irrigation regulations. In Osceola County, local water providers also want to ensure that people have the resources they need to irrigate appropriately and comply with regulations. A municipality and a water authority partner with the Florida Yards & Neighborhoods program to offer homeowner irrigation education, with the objective of changing people's wasteful irrigation practices and saving water. Irrigation consultations and workshops are offered to teach people how to operate automatic irrigation systems efficiently. Homeowner irrigation workshops are open to the general public, and additionally, local water providers dismiss a homeowner's irrigation violation warning for attending a workshop. In 2008-2009, over 195 households participated in workshops and consultations. Water use data of households participating in homeowner irrigation education was examined before and after participating in the education. As a result of irrigation education, participants adopted more efficient irrigation practices, saving at least 2,000 gallons of water per household each month. That equates to more than 4.7 million gallons of water saved per year in those households, and a combined cost savings of about \$8,775 per year. Homeowner irrigation education is playing a part in local water conservation efforts to help secure a future water supply. It also offers alternatives to penalties for irrigation violations. Additionally, irrigation education has introduced Florida Yards & Neighborhoods programming to otherwise unreached audiences.

ANNIE'S PROJECT IN FLORIDA. N. Wilson, S. Strickland, L. Spence, S. Kelly, J. England, and S. Taylor, 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd. Ocala, Fl. 34470

Annie's Project is an interdisciplinary farm financial risk management program for women in agriculture. Annie's Project is a focused curriculum that encompasses all five risk management issues such as: human, legal, marketing, production and financial. In the past, women on the farm filled a 'farm wife' role, today's female producer wants the challenge of transitioning the farm from necessity, hobby or craft to a viable business. They see a need for risk management, a business plan, a network and improved methodologies through science to increase their yield and to add value to their products. This National program was launched in Florida for the first time in five counties: Marion, Sumter, Suwannee, Hernando and Sarasota. Workshops were composed of various learning strategies for example: lecture, group work, role playing, case studies, and panel discussion and homework assignments. Each session provided in-depth instruction on the five risk management topics and taught by qualified experts representing the industry, government, university and local businesses. Each county had 20 participants and the success of this program have far exceeded any expectations. Examples of direct testimonial statements included:

"I plan to make my farm a long term financial success."

"I REALLY loved this class and learned so much. More than that; I was left with a wealth of resources to continue my education on my own and with people from class."

"The best \$25.00 I have ever spent."

"I was surprised by how much I didn't know and now do."

"The fact that this class was only for women made it even better."

Based upon evaluation results the participants plan to implement QuickBooks Pro as their record keeping system, write or update their wills, change or update their farm liability insurance, have a clearer understanding of financial statements, write or update their farm business plan.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA – FINALLY.

E. Thralls. Orange County Extension, 6021 S. Conway Rd., Orlando, FL 32812.

Background: Since 2008, local city governments have been contacting County Extension Agents for assistance with the development of community gardens to meet the needs of families who have no room to grow vegetables on their property. Situation/ problem statement and Objectives: The Extension Education Center in Orange County assists the City of Orlando, City of Winter Garden, and City of Apopka when residents want to start a community garden. The cities provide public property for community gardens. The City of Orlando has four gardens with 19-23 gardeners. The City of Winter Garden has one garden with 110 members and a waiting list of over 20 citizens. City of Apopka has one garden with 20 gardeners and intends to increase to 40 gardeners by the end of the year. Educational Methods/procedure/approach: The Extension Education Center works with each community garden group identifying educational needs such as leadership development (a sustainability effort for the organization), vegetable selection, propagation, planting, maintenance, pest control, safe pesticide use and how to process the harvest. These classroom topics are taught at bi-monthly meetings, free to all community gardeners. Results/findings/product: Gardeners have improved their skills in growing vegetables. On-site assistance has been invaluable. The Extension Education Center provides Master Gardener Volunteers as “Community Garden Advisors” on weekends where gardeners can ask questions and get answers in the field. It is responsive and proactive and has been a most positive supplement to the on-going programs. Conclusion: County residents want community gardens too. Extension Education Center, Neighborhood Services Office, County Parks Department and Community Action Office collaboratively outlined what became the Orange County Community Garden Program approved by the Board of County Commissioners on February 2, 2010. This will extend the reach of the Extension Education Center into more communities with an educational program to assist citizens who wish to grow their own food.

MID FLORIDA CITRUS FOUNDATION: A RESEARCH AND EXTENSION GEM. Ryan A. Atwood¹ and Gary England². ¹Lake County Extension, University of Florida, 1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32778, USA. ²Sumter County Extension, University of Florida, . 7620 State Road 471, Suite 2, Bushnell, FL 33513 USA.

The largest and most important fruit crop in Florida continues to be the citrus industry. Recently, two bacterial diseases (greening and canker) threaten the productivity and existence of the citrus industry. Citrus growers are looking to industry researchers to help solve these problems. The Mid Florida Citrus Foundation (MFCF) was founded to assist the citrus industry by providing a well maintained farm in which researchers and extension faculty could conduct safe and secure research projects and demonstrations on citrus and possible alternative fruit crops. The MFCF board of directors consists of local citrus growers and county representatives, while the management team consists of a farm manager, researchers, Extension personnel and growers. Currently, over fifteen citrus research projects are conducted at the 100 acre MFCF grove. Additionally, there are seven and half acres of deciduous fruit trials and demonstrations consisting of peaches, nectarines, plums, grapes, blueberry, pomegranates, persimmons and pecans. The agents are involved in conducting multiple grower field days at MFCF. The facility is also used for other Extension activities such as 4H, IFAS/Mid-Florida Research and Educational Center (MREC) Horticulture Camp, Master Gardener training and foreign agricultural visitor tours. The MFCF provides a farm in which researchers, extension agents and local growers work together to help solve problems facing the citrus industry and evaluate the potential of alternative fruit crops. This type of collaboration allows for enhanced research and Extension activities due to the interaction between the growers, Extension agents and researchers.

PLANT CLINIC PANEL DISCUSSIONS. Burn, B. and Davis, J. UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension 7620 SR 471 Suite 2 Bushnell, Florida 33513.

The Villages, the nation's fastest growing micropolitan area according to the Census Bureau is located in Sumter County. An extension survey conducted of 192 residents in The Villages showed that 79% of respondents have lived in Central Florida less than five years. It is crucial to Florida resources to teach this rapidly growing population sustainable landscaping practices. Plant Clinic Panel Discussions are opportunities for The Villages' residents to receive diagnosis of plant problems and learn in educational group teaching events. The objectives of this educational method is to recommend University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) research based horticulture information to address specific client needs, while decreasing repetitive questions. Objectives further include participant adoption of UF/IFAS horticulture recommendations. Master Gardeners, the Urban Horticulture Agent, and the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Agent offer panel discussions on specific clientele lawn and landscape problems while providing answers. Questions are asked in a talk show style with responses given from one or several members of the panel. In 2009, 726 participants attended a total of thirteen panel discussions. 93% (n=133) of the surveyed Plant Clinic Panel Discussion participants determined that their specific question was adequately answered. 80% (n=133) of surveyed attendees adopted the UF/IFAS recommendations given in response to their questions. Another 16% (n=133) of surveyed attendees plan to adopt UF/IFAS recommendations to solve their landscape problems. An online follow up survey analyzed the results of this creative, educational method. Adoptions of UF/IFAS research based horticulture information has the ability to reduce storm water runoff, reduce water usage, and will result in proper applications of fertilizers and pesticides.

AGRItunity 2010 FARM TOUR: LEARNING BY EXPERIENCING DIVERSE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA OPERATIONS. G. England, J. Bradshaw, S. Kelly, S. Strickland, E. Jennings. Sumter County Extension, 7620 SR 471, Suite 2, Bushnell, FL 33513

Objectives: Plan and conduct a farm tour focusing on diverse agricultural operations in the west central Florida region consisting of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco and Sumter Counties. Provide attendees with insight to start/improve their operations and attract additional participation in AGRItunity 2010. **Methods:** The farm tour was the first step toward the goal set by the AGRItunity planning committee to attract new attendees and eventually expand the program to two days. This group consists of the four Regional Specialized Extension Agents plus other interested Extension Agents in the west central Florida region, as well as members of the Small Farm Commodity Focus Team and representatives of the regional agricultural community. A subcommittee met and decided to visit a nursery, dairy, USDA Agricultural Research Service facility, organic blueberry farm, beef operation and aquaculture facility to give the attendees a sampling of the west central Florida agricultural industry. **Results:** There were 38 participants on the tour. Evaluations indicated that 76% either owned/operated a farm and 79% of the attendees had never attended a tour of this type. Eighty four percent of the attendees indicated that the tour gave them insight to start/expand their business and 100% recommend others interested in agriculture attend a tour like this one. The number of registered attendees at the AGRItunity 2010 Conference and Trade show was significantly higher than previous years increasing from 205 to 245. A couple that attended the farm tour was so impressed; they created a DVD featuring tour pictures that was presented the next day during AGRItunity 2010. **Conclusions:** The planning committee determined continued need for a farm tour concurrent with AGRItunity. To enhance the experience, the committee decided that in the future there will be separate tours for livestock and crops to allow for sufficient time at the various stops.

THE IMPACT OF AN EARLY STAGE COMMUNITY GROWERS' MARKET ON BUSINESS CREATION. S. Kelly, UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension, 7620 SR 471 Ste 2, Bushnell, FL 33513

Situation: The Wildwood Growers' Market is a collaborative effort between the City of Wildwood and UF/IFAS Sumter County Extension. The officials at the City of Wildwood agreed with the concept of a producers-only market and the formation of a market board to govern the operation of the market. A market manager was hired by the city and this agent works with the market manager in certifying growers, recruiting vendors and seeking funding for advertising. In November 2009, after six weeks of operation, a survey was conducted of the vendors of the market. The objective of the survey: determine the number of vendors that will indicate that they have started a new business as a result of this new market, and the number of vendors that will indicate that they have generated increased income through sales. *Educational Methods:* Thirty-eight vendors were sent an online survey and twenty were returned. *Results:* Ninety-five percent (n=20) of the vendors responding were satisfied with the number and type of customers visiting their booths. Overall, 50% (n=20) of the vendors responding either started their business just for the market or have been able to expand. Eighteen vendors responded to the question "Would you say that attending the Wildwood Growers' Market has been a financial benefit to your family/company/charitable organization? Eighty-four percent of respondents indicated that they had gained financially from attending the market. *Conclusion:* A community growers' market is likely to encourage people to develop a business for the market and increases income for families, companies and charitable organizations. Future surveys are planned to determine how many of these businesses are maintained or enhanced by this local marketing opportunity.

SUPPORTING THE 'LOCAVORE MOVEMENT'- VEGETABLE GARDENING

Keith Fuller, St. Johns County Extension, 3125 Agriculture Center Dr., St. Augustine, Florida, 32092.

1) Situation and Objective - The 'local food movement' has identified that many consumers prefer to acquire locally produced foods. With the advent of large supermarket chains it can be difficult to find locally grown produce for sale. Locavores encourage people to purchase locally grown produce or to grow one's own produce.

Home gardening is one way to acquire locally cultivated produce. The objective is to teach local citizens, who often move here from other parts of the country, how to grow vegetable crops in an environmentally safe manner.

2) Educational Methods- Vegetable gardening classes are held at the beginning of each gardening season. Each year we conduct the St. Johns County Vegetable Gardening Contest, the oldest county wide contest in the state. In conjunction with the contest an awards gala is held during which time a power point presentation highlighting all the gardens is shown. The judge's comments are shared with all at this time.

In the fall of 2009 an Advanced Master Gardener Training for Northeast Florida was held that centered around the 'Locavore Movement'.

In 2007 a community garden with 37 plots was started at the St. Johns County Extension Office. Within this area, Master Gardeners maintain a demonstration garden that has traditional in-ground cultivation, raised beds, hydroponics and container culture all using low volume irrigation. This area is open to the public at all times and tours are given during special events and upon request.

3) Results- A result of the vegetable gardening classes is that 90% of participants plan to change current watering and/or fertilizer practices. Because of the Advanced Master Gardener Training 80% of participants learned more about Florida agriculture.

4) Conclusion- Many people attempting to grow vegetable gardens are not in tune with Florida cropping dates and therefore have poor harvest rates. University of Florida recommended vegetable varieties are often unavailable at nurseries so seed culture is often necessary. There is a need to familiarize gardeners with low volume irrigation techniques and how to install such systems. Communication between consumers and retailers could help to get desired foods and vegetable plants into local markets.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP BEHAVIORS AND OUTCOMES OF GEORGIA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS. M. Lenhardt. Uf/Ifas Citrus County Extension. 3650 W. Sovereign Path, Ste.1, Lecanto, Fl., 34461.

1) Situation: Transformational leadership behaviors create meaningful and positive change in the followers with the end goal of developing followers into leaders. By possessing and exhibiting transformational leadership skills, leaders will have the necessary influence to create a partnership and culture of success with employees. The importance of leadership skills are often recognized but not always exhibited by the leaders in their organizations. While much research studying leadership theories exists, little research exists studying the effects of transformational leadership skills on golf course superintendents and their employees. Therefore, the need exists for research and an increased awareness of the benefits and outcomes of transformational leadership behaviors in the golf course industry. The program objectives were: (a) to describe the leadership behaviors of Georgia's golf course superintendents, (b) describe the outcomes generated by these behaviors, and (c) determine relationships between transformational leadership behaviors and leadership outcomes.

2) Educational Methods: This study utilized a non-experimental, one-time descriptive survey research design. Kouzes and Posner's (2007) Leadership Practices Inventory (LPI) questionnaire and researcher-adapted perceived outcome questions from part of Bass and Avolio's (1994) Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ) was administered to the entire population (N = 278) of superintendents in the golf course industry that received emails via the Georgia Golf Course Superintendents Association (GGCSA) listserv.

3) Results/findings: After data analysis it was determined that Modeling the Way was the transformational leadership behavior most widely used, followed closely by Enabling Others to Act. Outcomes of Effectiveness and Extra Effort scored similar and rated higher than Satisfaction, with the highest correlation between Modeling the Way and Effectiveness.

4) Conclusions: Recommendations include the need for an increased awareness of the benefits of improving transformational leadership behaviors in the golf course industry, and participation in leadership enhancement workshops by the superintendent and employee to increase transformational leadership behaviors and Satisfaction outcome.

TAILGATE EDUCATIONAL EVENT, D. Mudge and J. Walter, Orange/Brevard Counties/University of Florida Extension Education Center, 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, Florida, 32812.

Situation/Objective: Each weekend farm supply stores pack out with farm families getting supplies to prepare for their Saturday work projects. Many of these rancher/farmers do not attend IFAS events and yet their need is equal to, or often greater than, farmers who are regulars at Extension Education field days or forums. The objective was to conduct an event these “weekend farmers” would attend and so learn from professionals in their field of expertise. **Educational Method:** Two county livestock Agents, a tractor supply store manager and a Cattlemen’s Association member conceived this idea of an event where teaching by professionals would be done out of the back of pick-up trucks, learning on a one-on-one basis. A pancake breakfast, sponsored by Publix Supermarkets, was to draw the crowd away from the Tractor Supply store to their parking lot. Each hour “give-aways” were to be provided by private companies that contract with Tractor Supply. The entire event would run from 6:30 am until 10:00 am, allowing farmers to still do their weekend work projects. Publicity would be fliers passed out at Publix and Tractor Supply. Extension Agents Mudge and Walters worked with volunteers to organize the event. A live radio interview attracted additional learners. **Results:** Three hundred seventy five people participated in the event in 2009. This far exceeded plans making the event incredibly successful. Profits from the Pancake Breakfast were donated to the Junior Cattlemen’s Association. In turn, these young people participated, learned, and were the “work force” along with Orange County Cattlemen members. This unique approach to education was extremely successful in that an unreached educational audience participated, with only 33% of the participants having been to previous Extension events. Twenty six agricultural experts taught from the back of pickup trucks. **Conclusion:** New and innovative education approaches that reach new clients are needed. Subsequently, this provides opportunities to teach existing, unbiased information and provide critical education to farmers.

SEEDED BERMUDAGRASS EVALUATION FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA – A MULTI-COUNTY APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECT. S. Gamble, J. Walter, C. Bateman, D. Mudge, Y. Newman, J. Shuffit, M. Thomas, E. Jennings, M. Warren. Volusia County Extension, 3100 East New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32724

Situation: Hybrid bermudagrasses are outstanding warm-season perennials however vegetative propagation requires conditioning of planting material and specialized equipment which is not feasible for many landowners of limited acreage. Seeded types are an alternative that offers ease of establishment for the medium to small land owner.

Objective: To evaluate adaptation of seeded types in Central Florida, and to educate the small acreage clientele about seeded bermudagrasses options and their management.

Procedure: Three replicates of eight seeded bermudagrass varieties plus two hybrids (Tifton 85 and Coastal) bermudagrasses were planted in a randomized block during July 2008. During establishment, percent plot cover, winter survival and flower date were recorded. Plots were harvested during the growing season every 28 days and evaluated for dry matter yield and quality. Fertilizer and weed control practices followed IFAS recommendations. Plots were successfully established and one growing season of data has been collected; and a field day has been conducted. **Results:** Hybrid Tifton 85 bermudagrass was highest yielding (10600 lb DM/acre/year) followed by seeded types Mohawk and Cheyenne, which were similar in production to hybrid Coastal (8100 lbs/acre). Seeded type Mohawk exhibited early season growth as compared to the other grasses. **Conclusion:** Seeded bermudagrass varieties can produce acceptable dry matter yields per acre comparable to Coastal bermudagrass. Additional evaluation is needed to capture year-to-year variability. Seeded bermudagrasses are easier to plant, requiring less coordination and equipment than the vegetative varieties, offering ease of establishment to landowners with limited acreage.

JR. MASTER GARDENERS – AG IN THE CLASSROOM SUMMER DAY CAMP

K. Stauderman, Extension Agent, Residential Horticulture; K. Bryant, Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Science; J. Taufer, Program Extension Agent, EFNEP, 3100 E. New York Avenue, De Land, FL 32724

In this electronic age, youth spend more time interacting using computers and cell phones and less time outdoors in nature. The result is that many students are lacking in knowledge and awareness of outdoor environmental and agricultural issues that will affect them today and in the future. The Jr. Master Gardener introduces nine (9) and ten (10) year olds to the art and science of gardening and helps them develop life-skills to become good citizens within their communities. This program offers horticulture and health education through fun and creative activities. **Objective:** To help students develop a better understanding of Florida's multi-faceted agricultural industry and its relationship to our economy, environment, health, and quality of life. **Methods:** A week long summer day camp was conducted with twenty-three (23) participants. Topics presented included: plant growth, insects, attracting wildlife, food crops, environmental issues and horticulture. Activities included instruction from Extension Agents, Master Gardeners and student volunteers. Daily sessions involved hands-on activities, lectures, scavenger hunts and demonstrations. **Results:** The participants were surveyed to determine the most popular session. Sixty-eight percent (68%) expressed that the "grow-heads" and "dairy days" (ice-cream making) were most enjoyable. "Honey Bee Education" and "Strawberry Jammin'" showed the most knowledge gained, based on before and after test results. **Conclusions:** The majority of participants indicated increased knowledge of Florida grown produce. All participants sampled recipes made from locally grown ingredients. This program impacts the local economy by encouraging the purchase and consumption of fresh Florida agricultural products. Additionally, youth showed increased appreciation for the value and impact agriculture has on their everyday lives.

US EXTENSION AGENTS TRAINING IN FORAGE/ LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT USING FARM CASE STUDIES IN PUERTO RICO - BUILDING BRIDGES. S. Gamble, Y. Newman, J. Walter, M. Thomas, B. Burbaugh, D. Barber

Situation: Animal activists, environmental groups, changing market demand, input availability and consequent pricing structure (i.e. fertilizer, fuel), are challenging the traditional agriculture of the past 70 years. Florida ecosystems are also being bombarded with invasive plants, animals and insects. This in-service training will provide insights into Hispanic and island cultures where food production has evolved under constraints similar to what Florida agriculture is and will be facing in the near future and how producers have managed around them while providing insight about Caribbean markets. **Educational Methods:** To enhance agents understanding of tropical forage systems, cultural diversity, and critical thinking, five forage/livestock Extension agents, of varied experience, attended training in PR. Collaborative efforts in funding, in-kind services, and program design and implementation were employed. Sessions included tours to UPR Isabella Experiment/Research Station, research projects, and production units using conservation management. Included were two grazing dairies where economic stability and sustainability had been increased by migrating to a forage based feeding system, a forage operation providing livestock feeds to Puerto Rico and Caribbean Islands, and two cattle operations supplying beef to PR. These were studied and analyzed as case studies. **Results:** The training outcome expanded the extension agents' perspective on tropical and sub-tropical forage/livestock production and also changed the way they now approach forage related systems. In addition, agents increased appreciation of cultural differences and product acceptance, underpinning management decisions as they face changes to traditional FL production methods. At least two instances have occurred since this training where these new perspectives enable better agent/client understanding. **Conclusion:** This training enhanced agent perspective on cultural diversity and animal/plant interaction in food productions systems. Valuable insights were gained by agents that will assist Florida producers as we face changes in market demand, inputs and challenges to traditional production methods.



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Central District Extension Faculty Symposium, 29 April, 2010